

III. REMARKS


1. Claims 2-19 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, and 15-18 have been amended.

2. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 3 to include all the limitations of claim 1 and have amended the dependency of claims 2, 6, 10, 12, and 15-18 accordingly. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-19 are in condition for allowance.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

21 March 2006
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450.

Date: 21 March 2006 Signature: 
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